

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, dependent Claim 5 was rejected as being indefinite in view of the inadvertent use of a double negative. By means of the foregoing amendment that issue has been resolved. All of the other claims were again rejected in the Office Action as being obvious in view of the disclosures of the cited Teraura, Petteruti and Tsuboi references. In response, independent Claims 1 and 10 have been amended in a manner which is believed to be clearly patentably distinct over the cited references.

In particular, according to the invention, it is determined whether or not a recording medium is a medium on which printing of contents information is permitted, based on identification information of the recording medium on which the contents information is to be printed. If the recording medium is not a medium on which printing of the contents information is permitted, the printing of the contents information to the recording medium is inhibited. If, however, the recording medium is a medium on which printing of the contents information is permitted, it is determined whether or not the contents information, which is designated for printing, has been registered. Depending on this determination result, the contents information designated for printing to the recording medium is printed. Further, if the contents information is printed on the recording medium a set of the printed contents information and the identification information of the recording medium is registered in association with each other. In accordance with this claimed arrangement, it is possible to prevent the contents information from being printed on a recording medium on which printing of the contents information is not permitted. In addition, it is possible to manage which recording medium is printed, what the printed contents information is, and so forth.

Referring now to the cited Teraura reference, it is seen that Teraura discloses judging whether print data from a personal computer 39 includes RFID data to be written in a RFID tag 14, printing the print data on a usual printing paper if the print data does not include the RFID data to be written in the RFID tag 14 (paragraph [0081], lines 6 to 18), and printing the print data and the RFID data on a sheet of a printing paper 13 with the RFID tag 14 if the printing data includes the RFID data to be written in the RFID tag 14 (paragraph [0082], lines 1 to 6). Teraura also discloses, on copying, judging whether a sheet of document paper 61 has an RFID tag 14, printing an image read by a scanner 6 on the usual printing paper if the sheet of document paper 61 has no RFID tag (paragraph [0086], lines 8 to 16), and printing the data read from the RFID tag 14 on the document paper 61 and the operator's ID number in the RFID tag 14 of the document paper 61 as well as the image read by the scanner 6, on the printing paper 13 with an RFID tag 14 (paragraph [0090], line 1 to paragraph [0090], line 13).

Furthermore, Teraura discloses, on the facsimile transmission, judging whether a sheet of document paper 61 has an RFID tag 14, and transmitting a facsimile signal obtained by converting the image on the sheet of document paper 61 to the called facsimile 40 (paragraph [0099], lines 7 to 12) if a sheet of document paper 61 has not an RFID tag 14. Also, transmitting the data read from the RFID tag 14 on the document paper 61 and the operator's ID number as well as the facsimile signal obtained by converting the image on the sheet of document paper 61 after authenticating the user on the basis of the operator's ID number, if the sheet of document paper 61 has the RFID tag 14 (paragraph [0102], line 1 to paragraph [0102], line 12). In addition, Teraura discloses, on the facsimile reception, judging whether the received data includes RFID data to be written in a RFID tag 14, and printing the image indicated by the

received facsimile signal on a usual printing paper if the received data includes no RFID data (paragraph [0106], lines 8 to 15). Also, printing the received RFID data and the operator's ID number as well as the image indicated by the received facsimile signal on a sheet of a printing paper 13 with an RFID tag 14, if the printing data includes the RFID data to be written in the RFID tag 14 (paragraph [0107], line 1 to paragraph [0108], line 3).

The Petteruti patent discloses a roll of media 14 upon which is wound integrated RFID media 16 with RFID circuits 16a, and sending an message to a host that an error has occurred if the RFID circuit returns no response or an invalid response (col. 4, lines 62 to 65), while the Tsuboi patent discloses, storing image data corresponding to the partial area of an original document image and forming plural test images of the partial area on a recording medium by reading out the stored image data (col. 2, lines 57 to 64).

What Teraura fails to disclose, however, is a determination of whether or not a recording medium per se is a medium on which printing of contents information is permitted. Similarly, Petteruti merely discloses notifying an error if the RFID circuit returns no response or an invalid response, but neither discloses nor suggests determining whether or not a recording medium per se is a medium on which printing of contents information is permitted, let alone inhibiting printing of the contents information to the recording medium if it is determined that the recording medium is not the medium on which printing of the contents information is permitted. Also, Tsuboi does not disclose or suggest determining whether or not a recording medium per se is a medium on which printing of contents information is permitted.

In addition, none of the cited references disclose whether or not the contents information, which is designated for printing, has been registered, if the first determination

device determines that the recording medium is the medium on which printing of the contents information is permitted, let alone registering, if the contents information is printed, the printed contents information and the identification information of the recoding medium to which the contents information is printed, in association with each other.

For these reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention as claimed in independent Claims 1 and 10 is patentably distinct over the cited combination of references, wherefore the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50.3939.

Applicants' attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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